BECKY DUNCAN MASSEY STATE SENATOR KNOX COUNTY 6TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

6A LEGISLATIVE PLAZA NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243 (615) 741-1648 (800)449-8366 ext. 11648

> 6932 WESTLAND DR. KNOXVILLE, TN 37919



Senate Chamber State of Tennessee

CHAIR CALENDAR COMMITTEE

COMMITTEES
HEALTH and WELFARE
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August 18, 2014

Dear Chairman Wheeler:
Chairman Tom Wheeler
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: MB Docket No. 14-57

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

I am writing to the Commission today to speak to the proposed Comcast and Time Warner Cable transaction. As a state senator in the Tennessee General Assembly, I come from a family with a long history of holding office in the community of Knoxville and beyond. And as the executive director for a Knoxville nonprofit, I serve mentally challenged and disabled individuals.

In both of these roles, I have become acquainted with and impressed by Comcast's company activities. The way that the company operates as a business and the manner in which it gives back to community are both exemplary. I would like to urge you to approve the proposed transaction.

Comcast has been a leader in developing products for Persons With Disabilities, such as the ground-breaking talking TV cable interface it debuted last year, its Smart Home products, and its customer service for those with disabilities.

Disability advocacy agencies have noted Comcast's trend-setting hiring practices that are inclusive of the disabled. The company made "Careers & the disABLED Magazine's" Top 50 Employers List in 2014 for the fourth straight year.

As someone who is married to a software developer, I am cognizant of the impact that Comcast's digital innovations have. It offers the industry's fastest expandable business Ethernet

network. It brings creativity and accommodation to cable and video users. Its newest X1 platform allows entertainment content to be accessed instantly. Comcast programming runs the gamut and incorporates many independent minority-owned networks, Spanish language channels and endless On Demand options.

Tennessee is very involved in job recruitment efforts and developing a skilled workforce. Here again, Comcast has been a willing and able partner by offering free technology training, serving as a digital liaison between individuals and community groups, and awarding annual academic scholarships to local high school graduates. It also offers broadband service to the economically disadvantaged at a discount so that schoolchildren are able to access the Internet and develop the digital skills they will need for college and careers. The combined power of these programs, Digital Connectors and Internet Essentials, reaches millions nationwide. Already, more than 1.4 million individuals have connected to the power of home internet via the Essentials program. Many more could become eligible.

The many benefits Knoxville and Tennessee have enjoyed through an association with Comcast should be extended to other cities and states. Comcast is the kind of corporate partner that many more communities would welcome.

Respectfully,

Senator Becky Duncan Massey

State Senator, 6th Senatorial District